



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

CRIMINAL ALIEN WITH CONVICTIONS FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER AND ARMED ROBBERY DEPORTED TO TRINIDAD

NEW YORK, N.Y. – A criminal alien whose attempted murder of a shop owner failed only because his gun misfired has been deported by officers of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Marvin Toppin had been in ICE custody in the Pike County Correctional Facility in Pennsylvania since January, after his release from a New York State Department of Corrections prison. ICE Office of Detention and Removal Operations officers removed him from the United States yesterday, under escort, to Trinidad.

“ICE is committed to restoring integrity to the nation’s immigration system, and a key part of that mission is ensuring that criminals like Toppin are removed from our communities,” said John Longshore, Acting Chief of DRO’s Criminal Alien Division. “We are proactively identifying, and taking into our custody, criminal aliens who have completed sentences for their crimes, so that we can deport them as quickly as possible.”

Toppin, a citizen of Trinidad, was convicted of attempted murder and robbery in August 1998. Toppin was robbing a store in New York state when he pointed a loaded .38 caliber handgun at the shop owner’s head and pulled the trigger twice, but the gun failed to fire. While fleeing, Toppin fired again at the owner, putting a bullet in his chest.

Toppin was sentenced to five to 10 years in prison for the crime. He also has convictions for criminal possession of a weapon and was twice arrested for possession of marijuana.

Toppin is an illegal alien who entered the United States in August 1993 using a fraudulent passport and a visitor’s visa. Federal officers identified Toppin as an illegal alien while he was serving time in state prison, and he was placed in removal proceedings. Toppin was ordered deported by an immigration judge in February 1999.

The 2004 Fiscal Year, which ended on September 30, was a record-setting year for DRO removals with more than 160,000 aliens deported; approximately 85,000 were criminal aliens. Also last year, ICE removed 299 aliens to Trinidad and Tobago; 260 were criminal aliens.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.